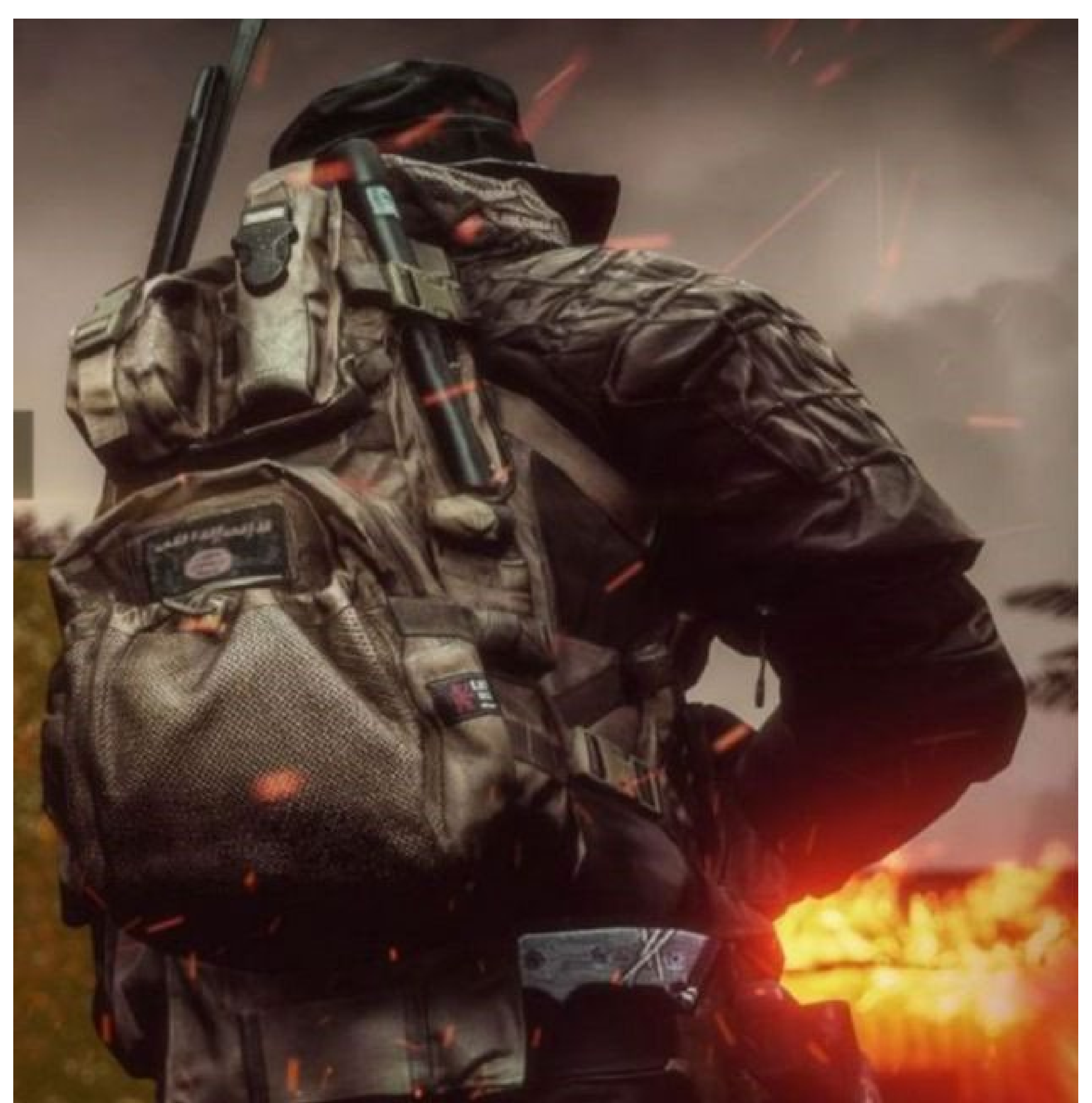


THOSE WHO BREAK OFF FROM THEIR TRIBES

Narrated by Ibn Mas'ud (رضي الله عنه) that,

The Prophet (Salla-Allahu 'Alayhi wa Sallam) said,

"VERILY ISLAM BEGAN AS SOMETHING STRANGE, AND IT WILL RETURN TO BEING SOMETHING STRANGE AS IT FIRST BEGAN, SO GLAD TIDINGS TO THE STRANGERS." SOMEONE ASKED, "WHO ARE THE STRANGERS?" HE SAID, "THOSE WHO BREAK OFF FROM THEIR TRIBES"
(Imam Ahmad, Ad Darimi & Ibn Majah with a Sahih Isnad)

Imam Abu Mus'ab Az Zarqawi said,

"ALLAH HAS DESCRIBED THESE STRANGERS WITH A NUMBER OF CHARACTERISTICS, AMONG THEM BEING THAT THEY ARE NUZZA' OF THE PEOPLE, OR NUZZA' FROM THE TRIBES."

The word nuzza' is the plural of nazi' and nazi', which refers to a stranger who breaks off from his family and tribe [meaning he departs and distances himself from them], and the naza'i' of the camels are the outsiders.

Al Harawi (رحيم الله) said,

'BY THIS HE (THE PROPHET) IS REFERRING TO THE MUHAJIRIN WHO'VE ABANDONED THEIR HOMELANDS AND MIGRATED TO ALLAH TA'ALA'"
(Al Qabiduna 'Alal Jamr)

Al-Baghawi (رحيم الله) said,

"HE [THE PROPHET] IS REFERRING TO THE MUHAJIRIN WHO'VE ABANDONED THEIR HOMELANDS FOR THE SAKE OF ALLAH 'AZZA WA JALL."
(Sharhus Sunnah)

Ibn Kathīr (رحيم الله) stated likewise in "Al Bidayah Wa'an Nihayah"
As Sindi stated that they are,

"THOSE WHO LEAVE THEIR HOMELANDS TO ESTABLISH THE SUNAN (TRADITIONS) OF ISLAM"
(Kifayatul Hajah)

Al Kalabadhi said,

“SO, IF THE SITUATION BECOMES SUCH [MEANING, THE RELIGION BECOMES EXTREMELY ALIEN TO THE PEOPLE], THEN THE BELIEVER AMONGST THOSE PEOPLE IS LIKE THE BELIEVER IN THE TIME OF THE PROPHET (SALLALLAHU ‘ALAYHI WA SALLAM). FOR THE ONE WHO LEAVES HIS TRIBE IS A MUHAJIR THAT PARTS FROM HIS FAMILY, HIS WEALTH, AND HIS HOMELAND, AND WHO BELIEVES IN ALLAH AND ATTESTS TO HIS TRUTH AND TO THE TRUTH OF HIS MESSENGER. ALLAH HAS PRAISED THE BELIEVERS FOR THEIR BELIEF IN THE UNSEEN,

Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) says:

“THEY BELIEVE IN THE UNSEEN”
(Surah Al Baqarah 2:3)

The companions of the Prophet (صلى الله عليه و سلم) believed in both what they witnessed and what they could not see, for they believed in Allah and the Day of Judgment without seeing either of them, and they believed in the Prophet (صلى الله عليه و سلم) having seen and witnessed him. The revelation would descend [upon him] in their company, and they would see the signs and witness the miracles.

The last part of this ummah believes in what the first part of the ummah believed in of the unseen, and believes in what the first part of the ummah believed in as eyewitnesses. This latter belief is their belief in the Prophet (صلى الله عليه و سلم), for they do not see the Prophet (صلى الله عليه و سلم), and because of that they’ve become the most wondrous people in faith,

Narrated by Ibn ‘Abbas (رضي الله عنه) that,

Allah’s Messenger (صلى الله عليه و سلم) said,

‘THE MOST WONDROUS PEOPLE IN FAITH ARE A PEOPLE WHO COME AFTER ME AND BELIEVE IN ME WITHOUT HAVING SEEN ME, AND THEY ATTEST TO MY TRUTHFULNESS WITHOUT HAVING SEEN ME. SO THEY ARE MY BROTHERS’
(Imam Ahmad in Ma’ani Al Akhbar)

Ibn Qayyim Al Jawziyya (رحيم الله) said,

“[INDEED] ALLAH SENT HIS MESSENGER WHILE THE PEOPLE OF THE EARTH WERE FOLLOWING VARIOUS RELIGIONS. AMONG THEM WERE IDOL WORSHIPPERS, FIRE WORSHIPPERS, AND IMAGE WORSHIPPERS, CROSS WORSHIPPERS, JEWS, MANDAEANS, AND PHILOSOPHERS. WHEN ISLAM FIRST BEGAN TO EMERGE IT WAS SOMETHING STRANGE, AND ANYONE WHO EMBRACED IT AND RESPONDED TO ALLAH AND HIS MESSENGER BECAME A STRANGER IN HIS DISTRICT, HIS TRIBE, HIS FAMILY, AND HIS CLAN. THUS, THOSE WHO RESPONDED TO THE DA’WAH OF ISLAM LEFT THEIR TRIBES. RATHER, THEY WERE LONE INDIVIDUALS WHO EMIGRATED FROM THEIR TRIBES AND CLANS, AND ENTERED INTO ISLAM. THEREFORE, THEY WERE THE STRANGERS, IN REALITY, UNTIL ISLAM HAD EMERGED, ITS DA’WAH HAD SPREAD, AND THE PEOPLE ENTERED INTO IT IN MULTITUDES, SUCH THAT THEY WERE NO LONGER STRANGERS. THEN IT BEGAN TO PART AND FADE, UNTIL IT RETURNED AS SOMETHING STRANGE JUST AS IT FIRST BEGAN. RATHER, THE TRUE ISLAM, WHICH ALLAH’S MESSENGER (SALLALLAHU ‘ALAYHI WA SALLAM) AND HIS COMPANIONS WERE UPON, IS SOMETHING FAR STRANGER TODAY THAN IT WAS WHEN IT FIRST EMERGED, EVEN IF ITS APPARENT FEATURES AND CHARACTERISTICS ARE WELL-KNOWN AND FAMOUS. FOR THE REAL ISLAM IS EXTREMELY STRANGE, AND ITS ADHERENTS ARE THE STRANGEST OF STRANGERS AMONGST THE PEOPLE”
(Madaarij Saalikeen)

Thus, the strangers are those who left their families and their lands, emigrating for the sake of Allah and for the sake of establishing His religion. In the era of ghutha’ as-sayl (the feeble scum), they are the most wondrous of the creation in terms of faith, and the strangest of them all.